

- III. Claims 39-44 and 113-124, drawn to composite particles of metal oxide and resin, classified in class 524, subclass 779; and,
- IV. Claims 125-127, drawn to a method, classified in class 427, subclass 337.

Applicant provisionally elects Group I for further prosecution, with traverse. The claims in Group IV (125-127) have been canceled.

Applicant respectfully requests that the restriction requirement between Groups I, II, and III be withdrawn. No serious burden on the examiner exists which would justify maintaining the restriction requirement with respect to the claims in Groups I, II, III. MPEP 803. "If the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." *Id.*

In the present case, each of the claims in Group II and Group III depend, either directly or indirectly, from claims in Group I. In other words, all of the limitations of the claims in Group I are included in the claims of Groups II and III. If the claims in Group I are allowable, then the claims in Groups II and III necessarily are allowable along with those claims. Because of the foregoing, no serious burden on the examiner exists to justify the restriction requirement with respect to Groups I, II, and III. Applicant respectfully requests that the restriction requirement be withdrawn as to Groups I, II, and III.

In response to the election of species requirement, Applicant elects Group A, claims 66-75, as the species for further prosecution on the merits. With respect to claims 56-65, Applicant elects zirconates for further prosecution on the merits. Claims directed to the foregoing species include claims 33-38, 61-75, 128-153.